DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1849. NO. 22.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

NORFOLK CATTLE SHOW.

ON the 26th of September, the Norfolk Agricultural Society held their first festival, at Dedham. The day was fine, and a large number of persons attended; and on the whole the show was excellent — a fine beginning. The ploughing match came off in good style. The show of cattle was not large, nor generally excellent, but there were some fine specimens. The swine were generally good, and several lots were as fine as we ever saw. The Suffolk pigs attracted much attention. There were several good colts and young horses. The exhibition of poultry was large, varied, and generally excellent. Edward W. Bray, Canton, had in one large coop, with numerous apartments, nineteen varieties of hens, from the little fancy Bantam to the majestic India fowls.

There was a fine show of implements. The display of vegetables and specimens of farm crops was extensive, embracing a great variety; and the quality, as to appearance, was remarkably fine. It was the largest and best show of vegetables that we ever saw.

The horticultural department, consisting of fruits and flowers, was very fine, considering the season has been so unfavorable for some species of fruit.

The address was delivered by Hon. M. P. Wilder, president of the society. It was deeply interesting as a sensible discourse, and was interspersed with sage remarks and specimens of wit. There was a great rush to the church to hear it, but hundreds could not gain admission. The orator excited profound attention; and that discourse must be excellent that holds an audience so long chained to the speaker, while so many exciting scenes were around them. The delivery of the address required one hour and fifteen minutes. On such occasions, when there is so much to do, and so much to be seen, it might be well to limit the orator to half an hour, lest we have too much of a good thing. An original hymn by Rev. John Pierpont, and an ode by George Lunt, Esq., constituted a part of the interesting exercises in the church.

At the dinner table there was an immense number of persons. Yet hundreds, and many from other sections who took a deep interest in agriculture, were sadly disappointed in learning that the sale of tickets was limited to members. This was the more grievous, as they could not hear the distinguished gentlemen who had honored this occasion with their presence. There were present Governor Briggs, and Ex-Governors Lincoln and Everett; Hill, of New Hampshire; Hons. D. Webster, H. Mann, and R. C. Winthrop, the venerable Mr. Quincy, Ex-President of Harvard College, now a practical farmer, and a host of others distinguished for talents and station. The dinner was continued long, and many speeches were made, as might well be expected from so many gentlemen noted for their ability. We doubt whether a dinner of even the Royal Agricultural Society of England ever presented such an array of talent — so many orators always ready for any emergency.

As to the arrangements for dinner, our remarks are not in the way of complaint, but we make them with a view to improvement, and with a confidence that those who were disappointed will, if they attend in future, be provided for. This society is young, and generally they have done remarkably well, and much credit is due the officers for their good management. May the future prosperity of this infant association contradict the old adage, that a *bright child never lives long.*

ESSEX CATTLE SHOW.

The Essex Agricultural Society held their annual festival at Salem, September 27. The day was fine, and a late rain had laid the dust. There was an immense number in attendance, crowding that city full; and in some places it was difficult to get a fair view of the show, so great was the crowd. The ploughing was generally done well; some parts were excellent; but on two or three lands the grass appeared rather prominent between the furrow slices.

There was a good show of stock: some specimens of cattle were fine, and among them was our native breed. There was an excellent show of poultry, of almost every kind, but mostly hens. Some lots were very fine. This branch is receiving more attention by our agricultural societies, and should be encou-

aged, for the produce of the hen, in eggs and chickens, forms an important, and no inconsiderable part of our food; and as to profit, as much depends on the breeds, and good management of fowls, as of any other animals.

The show of fruits and flowers was fine, and that of the former larger than we expected to see this season. There were some fine specimens of vegetables, but in this department the exhibition was rather limited.

The address by Hon. A. T. Newhall was plain, practical, and instructive, giving the experience and observation of the speaker. It was rather brief. Among the distinguished visitors of this fair were Governor Briggs and Ex-Governor Hill. As a general thing, this show was excellent. Mr. Proctor, the president, and the other officers, constitute an efficient corps in the cause of improvement.

MIDDLESEX CATTLE SHOW.

This festival was held at Concord, on Wednesday, last week. A large number attended. The ploughing match was on land that was rather heavy from recent rains, and considerable skill was necessary to good work. The competition was very brisk, yet most of the ploughmen and teamsters promptly performed their labor in a quiet manner. The ploughing was excellent, and the most of it was remarkably good, particularly in turning the last furrow. There were nine double ox teams, nine single ox teams, and five horse teams, one pair each. A son of A. G. Sheldon, Wilmington, ploughed with a double team, without a driver. He made excellent work, and completed his land in good season.

The show of cattle was not extensive, but there were some very fine animals. A variety of breeds were in the pens. Among the blood stock, the Devons and Ayrshires were the most conspicuous. There were fine natives, and some good crosses or mixtures of the native and foreign breeds. Concord shows have long been noted for fine specimens of swine, mostly a mixture of different breeds. One lot was called *Our Old Native Race*, as pure as could be found; but they looked too well to be even distant relations of the *Land Sharks*, as the old gaunt races were called. There was but very little poultry. The show of fruit, though not extensive, was very fine indeed. The vegetable products were not numerous, but large, and of superior appearance.

The address was by Lilly Eaton, Esq., who has occasionally appeared at celebrations as a poet; therefore we expected that the address would be poetical or flowery; but in fact it was both. He ran into verse frequently, and his prose was often poetical and flowery. The address was generally pleasing and beautiful, and no small part was marked with sage reflections and sound philosophy. Like many other addresses on such occasions, it was too long, requiring an hour in its delivery. This is a day of impatience and railroad speed, and the orator's motto should be, "Much in a small space."

We could not attend the dinner; but we understand that this society has followed the excellent example of some others in putting the tickets at fifty cents. This has been the uniform price at the shows, this season, excepting at Worcester.

This exhibition, on the whole, indicates good progress in improvements, in agriculture, horticulture, manufactures, mechanism, and in useful knowledge generally.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

The land for setting trees should be deeply and thoroughly cultivated, and if not in good tilth, it should be manured with well-decomposed compost, which should be thoroughly mixed with the soil. Trench ploughing and subsoil ploughing are excellent preparations.

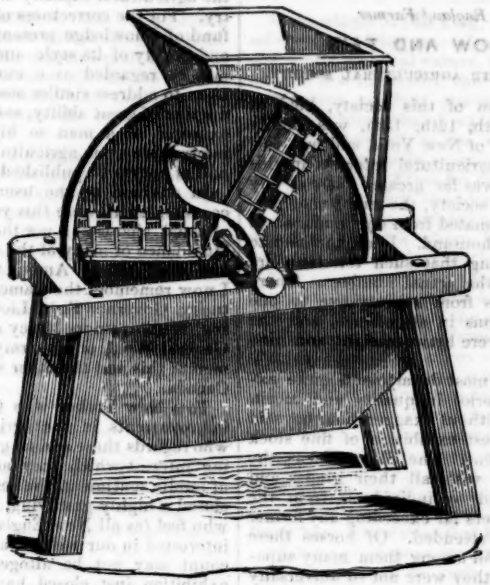
A hole for the tree should be dug five or six feet wide, and eighteen or twenty inches deep. It should be filled, nearly to the top, with rich loam and decomposed sods, which should be trodden down a little, lest the tree settle after it is set. Set the tree so that the roots will be within a few inches of the surface when the ground is levelled, or about the same as it grew naturally, or in the nursery. Deep planting is injurious. Fill in among and on the roots fine soil, and tread it down gently.

After setting the trees, in the fall, in the usual manner, to protect the roots in winter, throw up around the tree a broad mound of earth, six or eight inches deep; then lay around and very near the tree three or four stones, pressed into the earth, to keep them firm, and then place sods or turfs between the tree and stones, and press them down with the foot. The heap of earth will throw off the water, and keep the tree in good condition, in its new location; and it will also protect it from mice, as they will not work in elevated, exposed situations. The stones and sods, together with the mound of earth, will save the tree from injury from winds, without stakes. In spring, the convex surface should be changed into a concave or basin, to catch and hold the water.

October is a favorable season for transplanting, and the sooner it is done the better. There is no better season, if the work is done well, as we have recommended. When trees are well set in fall, they grow the next season, as though they had not been moved; but when set in spring, they often fail to grow, and sometimes they die from severe drought. We always have good luck in autumnal transplanting, even in exposed situations, and when open or changeable winters succeed. In packing trees that are to remain long in the package, the leaves should fall first, or they should be cut off, to prevent fermentation; hence some nurserymen recommend delay, as they do not like the trouble of removing the leaves.

CHEESE.

Several reasons being suggested for cheese being sometimes poisonous, another has occurred to the writer, from observing a number of thirsty cows drinking the "green mantle of the standing pool," in a pasture, for want of pure water. — *Selected.*



VEGETABLE CUTTER.

This machine is used for cutting roots and other vegetables into small pieces, so that animals can eat them conveniently and safely, doing away with all danger of choking, to which animals are liable in eating large and hard vegetables.

The cutting wheel is made of cast iron, with cutting knives like plane irons, that cut off slices of the vegetables that are put into the hopper; and by cross knives these slices are cut into fine pieces, adapted to convenience in eating, or to mixing with straw or coarse fodder.

This implement cuts with great rapidity, and is a labor-saving apparatus to those farmers who feed roots to their stock. Roots and other vegetables for stock, not only make a great saving in other food, but they keep animals in better condition, and render them more productive than dry fodder; and every facility that promotes convenience, or saves labor, in feeding, tends to encourage this improvement in agriculture.

THE CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

We are glad to notice a disposition on the part of citizens, in various sections of the Union, to pay more attention to the culture of the grape. Vineyards are springing up every where. In the neighboring county of Berks, we are told that already sixty thousand gallons of wine are made per annum. At the Syracuse Fair, specimens of American champagne, manufactured in the immediate neighborhood, also a specimen of port wine, so called, manufactured from a native grape found in the vicinity of Columbus, Georgia, were exhibited. No spirits of any kind or coloring matter was mixed with it, and the gentleman who submitted the specimen made two hundred gallons last year. But for the early frost, which killed much of the fruit, he would have made a thousand gallons. While on this subject, we may state that a few evenings since, we tasted, at the house of a gentleman in this city, some very delicious American champagne, manufactured from a vineyard near Cincinnati. A French gentleman present, who, we have reason to know, is an admirable judge of wines, pronounced it to be very superior — possessing the qualities of strength, richness of flavor, color, and brightness. When prepared and bottled according to the most successful plans adopted in France, and a full age given to it, this wine will, in the opinion of the French gentleman, become an article of domestic consumption and foreign export of great value. — *North American Farmer.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — Many of the native grapes that grow with great luxuriance, and produce in abundance, will make excellent wine. The musk taste, that is so offensive in this fruit for eating, will give a fine flavor to the wine, at least in the opinion of some nice connoisseurs. The vine culture is extending all over our country, and thousands of experiments are making with a view to collect or originate new and valuable grapes, and learn the best mode of culture. In a few years, we shall have this delicious fruit in abundance, and in great excellence. But the effect of an abundance of wine, genuine American wine, with no alcohol excepting that evolved from the juice of the fruit, on the moral state of the community, is a grave question, that involves in its bearing the welfare of millions.

Diffusion of Seeds. — In boring for water at a spot near Kingston-on-Thames, some earth was brought up from a depth of three hundred and sixty feet. This was carefully covered with a hand-glass, to prevent the possibility of any seeds being deposited on it; yet in a short time plants vegetated from it.

For the New England Farmer.

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR

OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual exhibition of this society, held at Syracuse, September 11th, 12th, 13th, was highly creditable to the farmers of New York, and was calculated to elevate the agricultural interests in this state. The attendance was far greater than at any former exhibition of the society, the number of persons being variously estimated from one hundred to one hundred and fifty thousand. I am inclined to a lower estimate, knowing that such estimates are almost uniformly above the actual numbers. There were, however, doubtless from seventy-five to one hundred thousand persons in attendance, and the receipts for admissions were between eight and nine thousand dollars.

The exhibition was in most departments quite extensive, as well as superior in quality and merit. The cattle show may, without exaggeration, be said to have been the greatest exhibition of fine stock ever held on this continent. The Short Horns, the Devons, the Herefords, with all their grades and crosses, were represented by individuals from the best herds, and in numbers far exceeding any former cattle show I have ever attended. Of horses there was also a large show, and among them many superior ones. But perhaps they were not so universally fine as were the cattle. The Morgan breed was represented by many good animals, and I noticed several fine colts, the descendants of a blood horse imported from England by a gentleman of this country a few years ago.

To the exhibition of sheep, which was, as usual, highly creditable, your New England wool-growers contributed some fine animals. We have for several years past been indebted to the wool-growers from Vermont and Connecticut for some of the best sheep at our shows; and they were not this year at all unmindful of their interests. Many of the sheep exhibited both from this and other states were of superior quality. This is particularly true of the Saxons and the various families of Merinoes.

Floral Hall was the centre of attraction, affording, as it did, a fine display of flowers, fruits, &c., of every variety, arranged in the most tasteful manner, and so as to give the best effect to the exhibition. It was visited by many thousands. Manufacturers' Hall was also quite well filled with specimens of goods of nearly every description, including a large display of domestic articles, highly creditable to the ingenuity and industry of the exhibiters.

But it was the show of agricultural implements which reflected the greatest degree of credit upon American enterprise and ingenuity. Probably no similar occasion has ever, at least in this country, presented such a vast display of improved implements as were exhibited on this occasion. And here again we must acknowledge allegiance to New England skill and enterprise. To Massachusetts must the credit be awarded of excelling in this branch of mechanics, although we have in New York some establishments which are fast following in the footsteps of your Boston and Worcester manufactures.

It would afford me much pleasure to notice in detail many articles and incidents connected with this fair; but the character and plan of your publication forbids any indulgence in long communications, and I will not trespass upon so excellent a regulation. I must not, however, close without a notice of the address which was delivered by Professor Johnston, of Durham, England, who has visited this country at the invitation of our society, for the purpose of addressing them on this occasion, and to gather such information as could be obtained in relation to the agricultural capacity and practices of this country. For the correctness of its statements, the vast fund of knowledge presented, the vigor, originality, and beauty of its style and expression, this address may be regarded as a model by all who are called upon to address similar assemblages. It was a production of great ability, and such as might have been expected of a man so highly qualified to impart information upon agricultural subjects. The address will of course be published.

In addition to the usual attractions of such an occasion, there were this year many attractions of an unusual character; not the least of which was the attendance of many of the distinguished men of this and other states. Among the visitors in attendance I now remember the names of Henry Clay, of Kentucky, Governor Fish, Lieutenant-Governor Patterson, Ex-Governors Marcy and Young, of this state, General Wool, of the army, and many distinguished men of this and the other states of the Union and of Canada.

To a New Yorker who takes a just pride in the improvements in the agriculture of his state, and who regards these annual gatherings, and the increasing interest which they are attracting, as an index of public sentiment, the result of the exhibition just closed is highly gratifying, in every respect. To you, who feel (as all New Englanders I am sure do feel) interested in our welfare and success, this brief account may not be altogether uninteresting. The exhibition just closed has far exceeded any heretofore held, and is a triumphant vindication of the ability and public spirit of the farmers of New York.

ROME, N. Y., *Sept.* 20, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

THE TRUE FARMER.

MR. EDITOR: With your permission, I am going to give you my views and ideas of what constitutes the true farmer. We know that the country is full of those who style themselves *farmers;* but, in my opinion, there are but few who can justly lay claim to so honorable a title, as the *true* farmer. There are such, however, scattered here and there all over the country; and wherever they may be found, they deserve the respect and esteem of all classes of citizens, — because they stand at the head of society, — as there is no occupation in the known world more respectable than that pursued by the tiller of the soil.

It was the first business pursued by man in the garden of Eden; and it should stand *first* now. But this is not justly telling what and who the true farmer is. Well, to come right at the point, the true farmer is one who owns a respectable sized farm, stocked with just enough to keep the farm in a good condition, and the grazing herds in a thriving state. This is *one* essential feature. Next in order, he must be one who has been brought up to the business, and served a regular apprenticeship therein, that he may know how to take the proper care of the grazing herds that roam over his fields, and understand how to provide for their wants at all seasons of the year. This is another essential feature.

Again, he must be acquainted with the nature of soils — understand what soils are best adapted to the different crops which he grows. He must be the overseer of his own affairs, as connected with his farming operations, and see that every thing is carried on under some regular system or plan. He must see that his sons are brought up to labor, and provide for them tools suitable to their age and strength. He must have a workshop on his premises, provided with tools, where his sons may employ their time rainy days. (This is one necessary fea-

ture connected with the farmer's trade.) He must, too, provide well for the female part of his household. Every thing should be made convenient in and about the farm-house; the dairy room should be handy, and all its departments provided with the necessary articles with which to carry on the business in the most expeditious manner.

Again, on washing days and other particular days of hard labor, he will have the good wife assisted by some one of the male part of the family, to make her labors less arduous, that her constitution may not be too early broken down. He will instruct his wife to train up her daughters to moderate labor, that they may be prepared, like herself, to engage in the duties which may one day be assigned them. He will, too, have a properly cultivated flower garden, for the benefit of his wife and daughters, deeming it (as it actually is) a lasting benefit, inasmuch as it is a place of resort and exercise in the open air, which is necessary for the preservation of health.

Again, every true farmer will provide for his wife and daughters a good, steady horse and comfortable carriage, that they may attend meetings, visit the sick, call on their friends, &c., &c. To speak in general terms, the farmer's wife is kept too closely confined in doors — is made too much the slave of man; consequently is deprived of what is essential to her health and happiness — exercise in the open air. The true farmer is the true gentleman, and wherever such a one is found, his worth ought to be duly appreciated. A. TODD.

SMITHFIELD, R. I., *Sept.* 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

BONE DISORDER IN COWS.

MR EDITOR: I have seen occasionally, in your journal and in other agricultural papers, accounts of a supposed disease in the bones of milch cows, owing, as is alleged, to the exhaustion of the phosphate of lime in the pastures where they feed. And bone meal is, as I am informed, actually sold in considerable quantities, to be fed to cows affected with this disorder. The whole theory, with respect to this bone disease, has always appeared to me to be unreasonable, and not supported by facts. I say unreasonable, because lands which yield an abundance of good feed — whether such lands be old or new — would be just as likely to afford sufficient nutriment to the bones as to the flesh of cattle fed upon such lands. If cattle are kept in good condition, as they ought to be kept, who would dream of their bones wasting in consequence of a supposed deficiency of some ingredient in their food? And why, too, should cattle only in some particular districts be affected with this disease, and not in other districts, where the soil is equally exhausted — if we may infer that fact from the length of time during which they have been in pasture.

But what facts are adduced in support of this theory? In some districts, cows in milk are found to be sickly: bone meal is given to them, and they recover their usual health. Does this prove that their bones have wasted away, or have threatened to *cave in*? Not at all, as it seems to me. The inference is not a legitimate one, but would seem rather to be jumped at, from the nature of the remedy found to be beneficial in these cases. Before we pronounce upon this wasting away of the bones, it certainly would be more satisfactory to have the matter thoroughly investigated by dissection of some animal thus affected. If the bones were gone, or partially gone, I suppose there would be no disputing the nature of the disease. But this has not, to my knowledge, as yet been shown, and I much doubt if it can be shown.

In questions of this kind, however, it is not always safe to reason from general principles. As the present one is of a practical nature, in which all farmers are more or less interested, they should obtain the best information in their power respecting it. It was with this view that I addressed a line to Dr. William Saunders, of Salem, a highly intelligent and successful veterinary surgeon, requesting his opinion on the subject. From his known skill and extensive practice, I had full confidence that he was qualified to give an opinion entitled to as much weight as that of any person with whom I am acquainted. From his letter in reply I make the following extract: —

"I have much pleasure in answering your request of my opinion concerning a disease called the *bone disorder*, or falling in of the bones, in cows, as printed in the New England Farmer of January 6. I beg leave to differ in my views with that journal, though at the same time I have much respect for its great utility in forwarding agricultural pursuits. That the cow, or any other animal, for want of consistent food, will consume away, is natural; but that it would *particularly* affect the bone, is, in my humble opinion, altogether out of the question; consequently, I must dissent from allowing the falling in of the bones, as described in that journal; nor can I admit of any direct bone disorder of that kind.

"I have given bone meal to neat cattle as a medicine, particularly to such cows as are frequently searching after bones, with good effect. I would therefore cheerfully recommend it in all such cases, or as a corrective of any acidity on the stomach, which in my opinion is the cause of this continual hankering after old bones."

This appears to me a more reasonable mode of accounting for this (so called) bone disorder, viz., that it is a sour stomach which impels animals to crave bones, than that their bones are falling away, and they seek to supply the waste by the consumption of the raw material. There is more of the bone meal given to milch cows in Danvers than in any other part of this county. And, indeed, I learn from Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, & Mason, that they sell large quantities, to be used there for this purpose. It must be found to be beneficial to their cows, or the farmers of that town would not go to this expense. Why their cows should be thus peculiarly affected, so as to require the use of bone meal, it would be difficult to determine. Whether it is owing to any peculiar grasses or herbs which they find in the pastures, which deranges the stomach, or to the use of *shorts*, which are used there very generally on the milk farms, or to what other cause, might be worthy of inquiry. Of this I am sure — that I have never known this bone meal to be given to cows on farms in this immediate vicinity. Perhaps they might have as good an appetite for it as other cows, if it was offered to them; but as they are generally in a healthful condition, and live to a respectable age, till they are turned off to the butcher, without any indications of a failure in their bones, they may as well, perhaps, be left without it. For a well cow, good food, good shelter, and good care, are the essential requisites to keep her in health; and to prescribe medicines in anticipation of disease, may only bring her to a premature grave, and make for her the epitaph, "I was well — I would be better — I took physic — and here I am." ALLEN W. DODGE.

HAMILTON, *Sept.* 18, 1849.

EDITORIAL REMARKS. — We have no favorite hypothesis on this subject, that we wish to support, and we are much obliged to Mr. Dodge for starting a more thorough investigation, and to Dr. Saunders for contributing his views, which are entitled to great weight, both from their plausibility and from his

high rank as one of the most skilful veterinarians in the country. What we have published, in regard to the bone disorder in cows, we regard more as a proposition than as a well-established fact.

One thing is certain: we believe that milch cows, in particular, are liable to a disorder, and that its symptoms and indications are as we have stated, (p. 18,) and that ground or dissolved bones are a remedy. The disease may have a wrong name, and even the cause assigned may be wrong; yet the facts as to the symptoms and cure are important and useful, and we hope that the hypothesis will be fairly tested.

We cannot agree with our friend, who has kindly furnished this valuable communication, that the theory is unreasonable and unsupported by facts; for there are facts that are strong circumstantial evidence in its favor. And as to lands yielding an abundance of food for cattle, and supplying nutriment for flesh, and not for bones, is nothing more strange, than it is that some food will produce a great flow of milk in cows, but a want of flesh, and other kinds will have an effect directly the reverse; or that apples and potatoes will cause pigs to grow well, but will not fatten them like Indian corn.

We do not suppose that any animal that is living and moving about has a perceptible decay in its bones; but the animal may feel a deficiency there before the most skilful anatomist could see it. Can he, by dissection, discover the seat and cause of every pang of heumatism? Disease in bones, and its effect on animals, must precede, and probably progress considerably before it is perceptible to the anatomist.

Acidity in the stomach of the animal may cause the symptoms that are ascribed to the bone disorder, as various internal diseases cause the animal to draw herself up, and produce a shrinkage of the whole frame, even of the bone work, from the contraction of the skin and muscles.

We do not think that the free use of shorts would tend to produce what is called the *bone disorder*, or acidity in the stomach, as it contains a large portion of lime, which, if separate from the food, would be a good medicine to correct these disorders. Yet it may be in such a state, as to its preparation, as to cause acidity.

It is difficult to prove the existence of some diseases, or what effects a cure; for in many cases, a patient may get well, through medical aid, though doctored for a wrong disease; and again he may get well in spite of medicine which has an injurious effect. A man may be dosed with sulphur for the salt rheum, and thus cure the itch, which was mistaken for the rheum.

Still we think there may be a bone disorder, and that there are stubborn facts to support it. Bones are composed, in a great measure, of phosphate of lime, or bone earth; and this is an important constituent in milk; and lands long cropped, and the crops removed from them, and no manure returned to them, cease to produce vegetation that abounds in phosphate of lime. Now, as there must be a drain of this material to supply the milk, is it not reasonable that there is a deficiency in supplying the waste of the bones?

Generally, cows only are affected with the bone disorder, and those only while giving milk; and when diseased in this way, while in milk, they recover on going dry. The bone disorder is more common on old lands, where the phosphate of lime is evidently exhausted, from the nature of the crops; and in the county of Cheshire, England, distinguished as a dairy district, this proposition was made an established fact by analyses of the soil. This subject is open, and we invite the attention of men of science, and of skilful practical observers, to its thorough investigation.

For the New England Farmer.

PORCULATION.

Do not be alarmed, my friend, at the ominously-classical caption of this paper. I do not propose to inflict upon the readers of the Farmer any stupidly-learned essay upon the pachydermatous order of quadrupeds; or to clamber, for the wonder of gazers, among the branches of the genealogical tree of the genus *sus*. Noah and his ark are safe from any domiciliary visit from me, and for the very sufficient reason, that I myself have been, at times, almost deterred from the prosecution of inquiries, as to matters of interest upon a farm, by the terrible long jaunt among the musty records of past ages, which writers will force upon learners. The student of nature, who seeks innocent information as to the peculiar breed of the *boned turkey*, which delighted his palate at the hesternal supper party, is crammed incontinently with the mythology of the ancients. Groaning yet under the undigested mass of information which he had sliced from the subject of his inquiry, he is forced to swallow Æsculapius, as a bolus, because patients who survived a doctor formerly slaughtered a cock to appease his disappointment. The lover of veal is treated to a dissertation on "bos taurus." And one must see a maze in the ear of corn, which he is manufacturing into nutriment, under his grinders, unconscious heretofore how "zea maize" tasted.

I propose to myself, with your concurrence, Mr. Cole, to clear a path which I found infested with brambles, and to render it unnecessary for those who contemplate the breeding of swine for their own use, or for market, to undergo the expensive and disheartening probation which fell to my lot.

The chief dependence of the farmers of Rhode Island for the annual supplies of their sties is upon droves which are brought from Connecticut. There are many of the larger landholders who raise their own swine, and a few who breed on a pretty large scale. Nevertheless, I am safe in naming the wandering drover as the chief pig purveyor of the state. There is not, to my knowledge, a boar a year or more old, within eight miles of my residence, except in the city of Providence. If there is one, he has been 'cute enough to evade my search.

Now, a drove, as it passes along through the villages, is constantly culled, until the last man is forced to take up with the land shark, or to remain hopelessly pigless until the arrival of the next caravan.

It has been my fortune to see some of these migrating grunters; and I am fain to confess that for any other earthly purpose than for a match against time, the majority of them were utterly worthless. Ah! and I well remember a couple which a neighbor, knowing my wants, secured for me on their tramp. It was, indeed, the only time they ever were

"secured." No edifice which ingenuity could invent was proof against their vaulting ambition; no rear wall impervious to their geological researches. They had the legs of a reindeer, the snout of a hippopotamus, the ears of a fox-hound, the head of a hedgehog, and the hide of a rhinoceros, combined with the appetite of a boa constrictor, and the fattening propensities of a hydraulion fire engine. They were the grave of a great deal of meal, those two!

You may be sure that no great amount of cogitation was required to determine me to become an agricultural Columbus, and to discover new worlds of pigs, or, at least, worlds of new pigs.

Now, this is a point at which the prudent farmer ought to ponder well, and to make that selection among the different improved breeds which is adapted to his wants. For our region of country, we require a pork hog. Farther south, they need a bacon hog; and there are varieties adapted to these requirements. The Berkshires, pure or crossed, are generally allowed, I believe, to be the fittest for bacon. But they do not fill the eye or the pork barrel of the New Englander. The best pork hog, all things considered, is the Suffolk, or a cross of the Suffolk and Middlesex. The greater part of the pigs on Prince Albert's farm, near Windsor, are Suffolk. The late William IV. patronized this breed. But they need no royal patron. They tell their own story, and the meal account against the pork barrel is their eulogy. They are well-formed, compact, with short legs, small heads, fat cheeks, quiet, and easy fatteners. The color is generally white, though occasionally a few black spots occur. They are hardy in constitution, and of a quiet disposition. These are emphatically *the farmer's hogs*, and better repay care and expenditure than any other breed which has come under my notice.

In my search for these animals, I fortunately met with the advertisement of Mr. W. Stickney, of Boston, in your paper; and many weeks had not elapsed before I had a splendid boar from his herd, grunting for his lost loves and his deserted piglings in Vermont. That veteran friend of the farmer and of all the animate creation, John I. Skinner, now editor of The Plough, Loom, and Anvil, was honoring me with a visit soon after the arrival of his porkship, and he pronounced him one of the finest animals he had ever seen. Now, there may be better judges of what constitutes a good pig than Mr. Skinner, but the world has not learned their names.

To test the value of this pig, as a feeder, I instituted an experiment with four hogs, two of them Berkshires, weighing about twelve stone, (of fourteen pounds,) one excellent pig of nondescript breed, called *Our Own Hog*, weighing about fourteen stone. The boar was a trifle below three hundred and fifty pounds. These pigs had daily the same allowance for two months. The Berkshires became gradually more and more lanterny; the nondescript gained apace; but the boar was in "killing" order.

Mr. Stickney is the only one, within my knowledge, who is seriously engaged in improving the too much neglected race, by large and judicious importations, and systematic breeding. I found at his farm, in Vermont, about one hundred head, (and ninety-eight tails, for two were *decaudizated*;) and a finer lot of pigs I never again expect to see congregated.

The man deserves well of his country who enables it to fatten two hogs where one starved before; and I most sincerely trust that Stickney will be rewarded, not only in dollars and cents for his outlay, but in reputation for his public spirit.

To my fellow-farmers of New England, and especially to our Rhode Island farmers, I can most conscientiously, and I do most earnestly, recommend to see this choice lot of swine, and to make a selection therefrom, for the benefit of themselves and their neighborhood.

And now, my dear Mr. Cole, I fear you have had hog enough to make you bristle up in rebellion against the dose. But you are a public servant man, and should be as uncomplaining as the president. It did occur to me, at the commencement of this paper, to attempt to convey to your readers a portion of the pleasure which I enjoyed on the trip to Vermont; and to have added a word about other choice stock, and divers vegetable productions which I found at Mr. Stickney's extensive domain, and some of which had an introduction to my teeth on the spot. But there is such a thing as tiring people to death; and I leave the subject, though unwillingly, perhaps to return to it at a future day.

Very truly yours,
W. S. KING.

Woodland Farm,
Near Providence, R. I., *Sept.* 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE, NO. I.

Mr. Editor: Agriculture may be considered the most ancient of all the arts, and is certainly the most important. The earth was, by divine appointment, to furnish sustenance for man, and after the fall he was doomed to procure it by the "sweat of his brow;" hence husbandry, or the practical part of agriculture, was the first and most important occupation of Adam and his descendants. We learn, from sacred history, that the two sons of Adam, Cain and Abel, were employed in this manner; the former, a tiller of the soil, and the latter a keeper of sheep. Agriculture has the merit of reclaiming mankind from the hopeless state of a wandering life, by drawing them together in communities, and imposing on them the necessity of a fixed habitation. We are left wholly to conjecture as to the implements with which the work of tillage was carried on in the early days of the world, or what degree of art was employed in producing the fruits of the earth; but it is supposed that the antediluvians were in possession of many arts and inventions that were in process of time lost, or but imperfectly retained by the several tribes or nations that were scattered abroad after the confusion of tongues. Noah and his posterity retained the art of agriculture; for we learn that immediately after the flood, he commenced the cultivation of the vine.

For many centuries after the flood, before mankind had become very numerous, and while every tribe could range over a large extent of country, their property consisted in their flocks and herds, and their chief employment in the care of them. This continues to be the condition of some of the nations in Northern Asia to the present day, and agriculture is but little attended to. The line of Ham, who took possession of Egypt, applied themselves to the cultivation of the soil with so much industry, ingenuity, and success, that Egypt was enabled to supply its neighbors with corn during a period of famine, and they were also the first people who applied themselves successfully to the cultivation of the earth. But they were invited to it by the fertility of their soil, occasioned by the annual overflowing of the Nile; they were not backward in assisting the liberality of nature; they employed themselves in draining, irrigation, and other methods for the improvement of their lands; and by these means they were enabled to derive all the benefits which their benignant river was capable of affording them. These works were carried on with energy by Sesostris, nearly two thousand years before the Christian era. The Egyptians were so sensible of the blessings

which agriculture afforded, that they ascribed the invention of the art to their god Osiris, and the culture of wheat and barley to their goddess Isis.

ROCKINGHAM.

For the New England Farmer.

PRESERVING SEED.

Mr. Editor: As the season has arrived when the various kinds of seeds are coming to maturity, the collecting and preserving of which is an important branch of agriculture, it is of the greatest importance to have sound and genuine seed, and we must not expect a good harvest without it. Imperfect and unripe seeds will sometimes vegetate and grow, but they will not produce healthy and vigorous plants. Many experiments have been made which go to show, conclusively, the superiority of full-grown and well-ripened seed. Every farmer and gardener should raise his own seed, and then he will be certain that he sows that which is genuine. He should devote a small portion of his garden expressly to the raising of seeds, and much care and attention should be paid to this department of the garden. We all know how extremely perplexing it is to have seed fail of vegetating, or prove to be different from what it was planted for. In collecting and preserving seeds, only those that are full grown and well ripened should be kept for use; and they should be well dried before they are put away, and should be kept in a dry place. If seeds are kept in a damp place, or are put up moist, they are most sure to spoil before spring. Much more might be said on the subject, but I will close for the present.

ROCKINGHAM.

USES OF CONVERSATIONAL MEETINGS AT FARMERS' CLUBS.

Every one who has paid attention to the subject of education has found it difficult to induce those to study in middle or after life, who have not been accustomed to it in their youth. As a general rule, those who arrive at the age of manhood without previous study can seldom be induced to apply themselves to books, and therefore they pass through life without availing at all of the knowledge of others. It is erroneously supposed by many that it is more difficult to study, or rather to retain what we may learn, in manhood, than in childhood: mere words, it is true, may be more readily retained by a child; but the truths imparted by words can be more easily understood, and therefore more permanently impressed on the mind, in after life. Such truths as apply to our business are seldom or never forgotten; and therefore we find our greatest jurists, and indeed our most original men of all kinds, among those who are styled self-educated, having improved their minds after arriving at the age of manhood. A child may commit a whole book to memory at the rate of one or two pages a day, and thus in twelve months be able to repeat the words. A man may read the same book in one or two days, and although he may not remember *verbatim* a single passage, still his general knowledge of the subject of which the book treats, will be infinitely superior to that of the child; for impressions made on the more mature mind of the man are independent of the mere words by which the idea was originally received. But notwithstanding this fact, we are answered that men will not read, and that it is even difficult to induce them to attend lectures. All this is true, and so far as the lectures are concerned, we are not surprised at it; for lecturers generally become tiresome from their endeavor to exhibit their own erudition rather than to instruct their audiences. Under these circumstances, the question naturally occurs, How are we to induce men to improve their minds? We answer, By inducing them to believe that they are instructing others; and the plan is as follows: Suppose one hundred farmers should meet together once a week, or once a month, for the purpose of discussing the best mode of performing any agricultural process, and that, instead of its being a mere meeting for promiscuous conversation, they would choose a subject, appoint a chairman, and adopt the following rules of order: —

1. That a chairman, two vice-chairmen, and two secretaries, be appointed by the members attending the third conversational meeting.

2. That it shall be the duty of the chairman, and, in his absence, of one of the vice-chairmen, to preside at all conversational meetings held during the winter; and that the secretaries keep minutes of all the important facts stated at these meetings, in a book to be provided for the purpose; which book shall be the property of the institute, and open to the perusal of all the members.

3. That no person shall be at liberty to speak more than fifteen minutes at one time, without permission from the meeting.

4. That in no case will a member be permitted to reply to remarks made by another member; it being understood that at these meetings members are only expected to state such facts connected with the subject of conversation, as their experience or knowledge may suggest, but not to encourage debate.

5. That a list of subjects for conversation be posted in the room, to which each member may add such as he may be anxious to avail himself of the information of members upon; it being understood that these meetings are intended to disseminate any information possessed by one member to the whole meeting.

6. That, previous to the close of each meeting, the chairman shall propose three subjects, (if so many remain undisposed of on the list,) one of which shall be selected for the next evening's conversation.

7. That the members shall be invited to attend at 7 o'clock, and employ their time until 8 o'clock in social intercourse, thus enabling them to become acquainted.

8. The chairman shall call the meeting to order at 8 o'clock, and in all cases adjourn at half past 9 o'clock, if not previously adjourned.

9. All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer.

10. Members may invite their friends to attend these meetings. — *Working Farmer.*

CAMOMILE.

A few roots of this plant should have a place in every garden. Not only are its medical qualities highly valuable, but its presence among vegetables is supposed to be an Ægis of protection against many diseases to which they are subject. It should be translated into warm and rich soil, early in the spring, and be assisted, during its early development, by copious manuring and frequent pressure. When plants, late in the season, exhibit symptoms of decay or general debility, the planting of a small root of camomile in their vicinage is frequently the most speedy and efficacious remedy that can be applied. The odor, or aroma, diffused by this plant, is also known to be highly repellent to many kinds of aligerous insects, and its presence among those species of plants and vegetables infested by such enemies, will protect them more effectually than almost any other agent known, and at comparatively small expense.

THE LINCOLN PEACH.

This peach is probably a native of the town of Lincoln, in this state, as it has been cultivated there for fifty years, and is regarded as one of the most valuable varieties for orchard culture. The tree is hardy, productive, and a good, strong grower, forming a large, vigorous tree. The fruit is hardy against storms, and it is of the largest size, and of a beautiful appearance, selling at the highest prices, when raised under good culture, and offered for sale in fine condition and the best style. The largest of these have sold at five dollars a bushel this season, and they have been retailed at six cents each.

The Lincoln peach ripens from the 10th to the 20th or 25th of September, coming into use, generally, as the supply of southern peaches abates; and the Tarbell, and Smith's Favorite, two other valuable varieties, cultivated in Lincoln, follow in quick succession, and run through the season, as late as any peaches will ripen well.

The fruit is very large; roundish-oval; deep cavity; suture on one side, deep towards and at the top, slight point at the top; rich golden yellow, beautifully mottled and blended with brilliant red, with a blush of deep red full in the sun; flesh bright yellow, with a tinge of red at the stone; melting, juicy, rich, sweet, luscious, and of fine flavor; the stone free, rather small, oval, pointed, ragged.

We selected this variety from its fine appearance in the orchard, and high reputation; and we are indebted to Mr. Charles H. Tarbell, Lincoln, for scions, which we set last season, and they have made a fine growth in the nursery; also for specimens of the fruit for our drawing. We consider this old standard native of our New England hills superior to most foreign kinds of peaches that make so conspicuous a figure in most of our fruit books and nursery catalogues. We have good native peaches enough to fill a long list, even ten times as extensive as any one would wish to cultivate.

USE OF THE ROLLER ON GRASS LANDS.

In no branch of husbandry is the roller more an implement of utility than in the cultivation of grass. It renders the soil compact and solid; it encourages the growth of the plants, by bringing the earth close to every part of the root; it assists in filling up and levelling any inequalities in the surface of the field, thereby preventing surface water from remaining stagnant, and eradicating the grass from particular spots; and it tends to hinder the drought from penetrating, which is an effect of the greatest importance. In fact, a grass field cannot be too often rolled; and it is not going too far to assert, that the application of the roller, in autumn, to prepare the roots for resisting the winter frosts, and in spring to set them firm after those frosts, every year while the field remains in grass, will amply repay the expense. — *Trans. of the Highland Society.*

The steam engines at work in London are equal to the united force of 1,900,000 men, and are managed by only 36,000 men.

SALT—ITS USE IN DESTROYING VERMIN AND WEEDS.

We turn again to Johnson's Book on Fertilizers. Under the head of Common Salt, he gives numerous experiments with different qualities of that substance, applied to the various grains, vegetables, and grasses; but as we doubt whether the price of the article in this country would not make it inexpedient to use it, in preference to cheaper and more efficient manures, we choose rather to extract what he says of it as to its effects in the destruction of vermin; and this we do in some hope that it may be advantageously employed as a means of arresting the ravages of pestiferous worms, flies, and other insects, that infest our fruit trees, and fields of cotton and grain; increasing in variety and voracity of late years in such a degree, as to threaten the annihilation of some fruit and ornamental trees, and seriously to impair the value of cotton plantations.

There is, says the writer before us, no agricultural use of common salt more undoubted than in the destruction of vermin. The effect, too, is direct, and the result immediately apparent. For this purpose, from five to ten bushels per acre are abundantly sufficient. The agriculturist need be under no apprehension that the salt will destroy his crop, for twenty bushels of salt per acre may be applied to young wheat with perfect safety. I have seen twenty-five bushels used with advantage.

No person has perhaps used salt for this purpose to a greater extent than Mr. Busk, of Ponsbourn, in Hertfordshire. "I have used it," said this gentleman, in a recent communication to the author, in this and in the last season, "as a top-dressing to nearly two hundred acres of wheat, having almost exclusively in view the destruction of slugs and worms, with which my land was very much infested, and this object is very satisfactorily accomplished. Some part of my land is light and strong, well adapted to the growth of beans and wheat. In applying the salt, little attention was paid to the quality of the land, or the season of the year; but those spots and those times were selected where the number and ravages of the vermin seemed most apparent, and in every situation, and at every time, the effect appeared equally beneficial. A little more experience may perhaps suggest some more accurate rule as to season; but I am of opinion that the earliest will in general be found the best; at any rate, I would avoid sowing, if I could, immediately after a fall of snow, as snow produces, on places recently sprinkled with salt, an unpromising appearance. Perhaps the best mode may be, what we have very satisfactorily in some instances tried, to sow it on cloverleys and bean stubble just before they are ploughed. If, however, there is some doubt as to the most eligible quality of the land, or period of year, there can be none as to the fittest state of the weather or time of the day: an opportunity should be selected when the weather is mild and moist, but not rainy — when the land is damp, but not wet; and salt should never be sowed when the sun is shining, but either early in the morning or late in the evening, after sunset. We sow it out of an ordinary seed shuttle, at the rate of four or five bushels per acre. In the morning, each throw may be distinguished by the quality of slime, and the number of dead slugs lying on the ground. The finer and drier the salt is the better. The positive advantage," adds Mr. Busk, "I cannot state accurately in figures, but I am confident it has, in every instance, been considerable; and in some fields it has been the means of preventing the total destruction of the crop."

For destroying worms and other vermin in oats, salt has been successfully employed by Mr. Walker, Rushyford, in Durham, at the rate of six bushels per acre.

For the same important purposes, salt has been regularly employed by Mr. Archibald, gardener to Lord Sheffield, at Fitcham, in Sussex; as well as for promoting the destruction of weeds. He trenches the ground and sprinkles it with salt every winter, and is never troubled with predatory vermin. When Mr. Archibald first came to Sheffield Park, in 1828, he found the peaches and nectarines regularly eaten and destroyed by some kind of vermin. Getting up early in the morning, he found it was done by the snails, who, as soon as the sun was risen, so as to shine with power on the south aspect, retired back to the northern side. He immediately laid a thick layer of salt along the northern wall, and found then, as ever since, that it proved a most effectual barrier to the intrusions of the snails; and that it has certainly no bad influence on the trees or fruit. — *American Farmer.*

HOW TO MAKE A HORSE SURE-FOOTED.

A singular account of the manners of the ancients in the manner of breaking in their horses, rendering them sure-footed when galloping over the most irregular and dangerous grounds, is related by Vegetius. The Parthian horses were lighter and hardier than those of the Cappadocians or Medes, and were the best war horses. A spot of dry level ground was selected, on which various troughs or boxes, filled with chalk or clay, were placed at irregular distances, and with much irregularity of surface and of height. Here the horses were taken for exercise, and they had many a fall as they galloped this strangely uneven course; but they gradually learned to lift their feet higher, and to bend their knees better, and to step sometimes shorter and sometimes longer, as the ground required, until they could carry their riders with ease and safety over the most irregular and dangerous places. Then it was that the Parthians could fully put into practice their favorite manœuvre, and turn upon and destroy their unsuspecting foes. They were as formidable in flight as in attack, and would often turn on the back of the animal and pour on their pursuers a cloud of arrows that at once changed the fortunes of the day. — *Scientific American.*

A PLEA FOR THE COW.

In our rambles about the city, we had the good luck to fall in with Davis, the man who keeps better cows, and has poured out more quarts of milk to the good people of Detroit, than any other man in it. And he knows something about cows too. He says that you farmers in the country hardly know the meaning of a good cow. He brings against you the grave charge of "scrimping" your cows, and well nigh starving them in the months of February, March, and April, so that there is nothing left of them but a "rack of bones;" and then they are good for nothing for the whole season. For a while, after being turned to grass, they are reduced to mere shadows by the scours, and by the time they begin to recover from this back-set, the flies are ready to tackle them; and thus the poor creatures are kept down the whole summer through. That, he says, is bad economy, and it is too. Verily, this is a great evil under the sun, and if we knew what to say or do to correct it, most gladly would we set ourselves to the task. If scolding would do any good, for humanity's sake, or the poor cows' sakes, we would scold until you cried, "Enuf!" And now, in the name of these poor, mute, suffering, meek, uncomplaining, unoffending creatures, we would ask what you mean by such treatment. Do they not reward you fourfold for all

you do for them. If you have no conscience then, no sense of justice, no humanity, no *cow*-manity, where is your selfishness? Where is your love for money, as well as of milk, butter, and cheese? Surely it must be stone blind.

We heartily wish that those poor creatures were gifted with the power of utterance, and could speak in their own behalf; that they would get up a sort of public sentiment among themselves, have a great cow convention, discuss their wrongs, peaceably petition for a redress of grievances, and, if denied, turn their horns against their oppressors. That would be right, and the whole world might be invoked as a witness of the justice of their cause, and the *cow*-ardly bipeds, who have grown so insolent in the exercise of their long-abused authority, would turn pale with affright, and be glad enough to come to terms. But we must restrain our indignant pen. — *Michigan Farmer.*

REVIEW OF THE WOOL MARKET FOR SEPTEMBER.

The market for wool has rather advanced than receded for the past month, especially in the lower and highest grades. The indications are now favorable for a still further advance on the finer grades. Cloths have advanced, and as the season draws to a close, the advance will be still more perceptible. Upon the whole, the prospect is truly cheering for both wool-grower and the manufacturer, particularly if friendly relations with France should be interrupted for any considerable time.

Sales have been made at the depot during the month, of No. 5 at twenty-six cents, of No. 4 at twenty-eight cents, of No. 3 at thirty cents, and a good demand at these prices. We do not, however, alter our quotations for last month. — *The Wool-Grower.*

PROSPECT FOR BEEF, PORK, AND PELTS.

Although cut meats are now low, we think there are causes at work that will materially enhance the price, and that pork will bear a good price this fall and winter. The increased facility afforded by the railroads for carrying fresh meats to market will enable the farmers generally to realize very good prices for their fat cattle, sheep, and hogs. The price for tallow and hides will be good this fall, and beef packing, if cattle have not too much advanced in price in the grazing districts of the west. The demand for pulled wool will be very active this winter, and at good rates, so that pelts ought to command a high price, though we hope few sheep will be slaughtered, for there are not enough now. — *The Wool-Grower.*

HORSERADISH.

Horseradish may be easily propagated by setting the roots in the fall. The soil should be rich, and have a southern or eastern exposure, with some protection on the north. We have found the following method quite successful. Parallel with some fence or building, which may serve to furnish the desired protection from the cold winds of the north, and at a slight remove from it, say two feet, dig a trench eighteen inches deep, and a foot wide. Fill this half full of old, finely-pulverized and garden loam, and insert your roots, eight inches apart, and finish the filling with good soil, in which there is a liberal admixture of old manure, lime — air slacked — and ashes. Keep the weeds down, and the surface light and permeable, and there will be little danger of failure. As soon as the plants appear, apply a compost, formed of one bushel leached ashes, two quarts of charcoal, finely triturated, and one peck of gypsum. Irrigate occasionally with soap-suds, or the liquid from the barn-yard.

The space in the rows, which has been cleaned during summer, should be again filled in, and the transplanted plants permitted to remain for future use. By taking up some of the roots towards the close of summer, carefully washing and scraping them, and preserving them in bottles by turning vinegar over them, and securing the bottles by melted sealing-wax, a supply of the article may be secured during the winter, as fresh and good as when taken from the soil. Some, who are unacquainted with this process, take up a quantity of the roots, and preserve them in sand, or other soil, in their cellars; but the article loses much of its goodness in this way. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

SHELTERING SHEEP.

Permit me to call the attention of farmers in Ohio and other sections of the country to the importance of providing shelter for sheep and other domestic animals. I have had some experience in keeping sheep at stacks, exposed to the drizzling rains and sudden changes of the weather during the winter season. In the winter of 1847–8, I put one hundred to stack, and gave them plenty of hay and some grain through the winter. The loss was over twenty per cent. I have no doubt they ate a fourth more than the same number that were protected, of which the loss was only two per cent. In consequence of this result, I built ample sheds during the past summer, provided with hay-lofts, one sixty by twenty, and another fifty-five by twenty feet. (I will just observe, for the benefit of those who are building sheds of this kind, that twenty-four feet is about the proper width, and the additional expense of four feet is trifling.) These sheds are set to two barns, and enclose the yard on three sides. Here, in separate divisions, I have kept my sheep the past winter. They have had good hay and plenty of water, and the yards were strawed three times a week. I feed some grain to my lambs in winter, and give some to ewes in spring. My loss up to this time (April 15) is half of one per cent. Many of my sheep were in low condition in the fall; yet I would like to compare them with any flock of the same number that have had no protection.

E. HALLEY.

Cleaveland, Ohio, *April*, 1849.

— *Albany Cultivator.*

THE NUMBER OF DOGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

If it be within the power of those who are to give directions about the next census, we hope they will take measures to ascertain the number of dogs, male and female, in every county in our Union; and, if it could be done, it would be useful also to have a return of the number of sheep killed by dogs. At two cents per day, it is probable that the cost of dogs is equal to the value of our exports of grain and provisions to England this year; and it is not improbable that our sheep husbandry would add as much more to the wealth of the country, if it were not for the fear of having the sheep destroyed by dogs.

We are no enemies of dogs, of genuine blood, kept and used for their legitimate and appropriate purposes: all such will ever find in us stanch friends and defenders. But we have a great aversion to idle, useless whelps — *nati consumere fruges* — born only to consume the fruits of the land — whether they go on four legs or two! — *Plough, Loom, and Anvil.*

Domestic Department.

Domestic Endearments. — I hold it indeed to be a sure sign of a mind not poised as it ought to be, if it be insensible to the pleasures of home, to the little joys and endearments of a family, to the affection of relations, to the fidelity of domestics. Next to being well with his own conscience, the friendship and attachment of a man's family and dependants seem to me one of the most comfortable circumstances of his lot. His situation, with regard to either, forms that sort of bosom comfort or disquiet that sticks close to him at all times and seasons, and which, though he may now and then forget it, amidst the bustle of public or the hurry of active life, will resume its place in his thoughts, and its permanent effects on his happiness, at every pause of ambition or of business. — *Selected.*

Learn to cook well. — The health of the family depends upon it. We know there are those who associate luxury, effeminacy, and all dependent ills, with every attempt of the kind recommended. But we do not believe that health is promoted by eating raw carrots or doughy bread, — or that, to secure long life, it is necessary to turn cannibal. Nor were men made to graze like cattle, or eat food like dogs.

Nor is it necessary, in order to shun the errors of which we speak, to rush into the opposite extreme. Good cookery does not consist in producing the highest seasoned dishes, nor such as to foster a morbid appetite; but in preparing every dish well, however simple or common it may be. There are, for instance, families who never eat any good bread from one century to another, and have no idea in what it consists. Nor are meats cooked any better within their precincts. Those little, simple, and healthy delicacies, which the good housekeeper knows intuitively how to produce, are never seen here. Even a dish of potatoes cannot get themselves well boiled. A member of the family might as well fall among the Hottentots, as far as any proper nursing is concerned. These things ought not to be, nor is there any need of their existence, if the wife has any just notions of her obligations to herself and those about her.

The science of bread making, of meat broiling, stewing, roasting, and boiling, of vegetable cooking, and of preparing the multifarious small dishes of all sorts, which go to make pleasant the table, and all about, are hers, — hers to understand and practice. — *Prairie Farmer.*

A Substitute for Tea. — Dr. Graham, an old and experienced physician in London, says, "I may state on very respectable authority, that the first leaves of whortleberry, properly gathered and dried in the shade, cannot be distinguished from real China teas."

Boys' Department.

A docile, sagacious Bull. — Boys, when you come to be grown men, and have stallions, bulls, and rams for breeding on your farms, among other good points, or qualifications, don't forget what we think the most important, namely, a gentle disposition, or, in other words, *kind temper*. Many persons have been killed by ferocious males, and even females; you will see, therefore, that in propagating such animals, you endanger your own lives as well as those of others. Our rule is, however good an animal may be in other respects, if wanting in docile disposition, not to breed from it.

We will now tell you a story of a Durham bull which belongs to Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, of England. This bull is kept in the little park at Windsor, so called, to distinguish it from the great park, at the head of which stands Windsor Castle, one of the largest and most magnificent buildings in Europe, and the principal summer residence of the Queen and Prince. This animal, possessing a kind temper, had been taught to work alone in a cart, like a horse. He made himself very useful in this capacity; and was of such great strength, that he would take a load of more than six thousand pounds (three tons) along a level road with as much ease, and perhaps more, than any one of you could trundle a wheelbarrow load of dirt not weighing over one hundred pounds.

Well, one day, after a hard morning's work, they turned him out into the park to feed and refresh himself on the rich grass that was growing there. In the same pasture was another bull, which proved to be of a vicious temper; for no sooner did he espy a farm laborer from the adjoining field attempt to pass through the pasture, than he commenced bellowing and pawing, and then rushed forward with all his might, determined to gore him to death. The ferocious beast had knocked the man down, and was in the act of stooping to toss him on his horns, when the kind tempered Durham bull, seeing his extreme danger, set off on a full run to his rescue. He came up with such prodigious force as to knock the wicked bull prostrate at a single blow of his head. He then commenced affectionately licking the fallen man, which so revived him, that he turned over, and perceiving that it was the friendly Durham bull, he at length got strength to rise up, when, mounting the back of his dumb friend, he was soon carried out of danger.

Now, boys, you will see the safety of possessing good-tempered animals; and there is not only superior safety, but greater utility, in them; for they will consume less food, do more work, give more milk, if females, and finally fatten better, and of course be more valuable through life and in the end. — *American Agriculturist.*

Health.

Honey is, according to Mr. Milton, who has lately published a treatise on bees in England, a universal specific; and among its other valuable properties, he declares that it prevents consumption, and states that that destroyer of human life is not known in countries where honey is regularly taken as an article of food. Those who have less faith in the specific, may perhaps attribute the cause to difference of climate rather than to honey. The Italian singers, it is also affirmed, are greatly indebted to honey; but their practice is to sharpen it with a few drops of acid, though they sometimes take it in a pure state. — *Albany Cultivator.*

Ripe Fruit and Dysentery. — There is a pernicious prejudice with which people are too generally imbued; it is, that fruits are injurious in the dysentery — that they produce and increase it. There is not, perhaps, a more false prejudice. Bad fruit, and that which is imperfectly ripened, may occasion colics, and sometimes diarrhœa — but *never* epidemic dysentery. Ripe fruits of all kinds, especially in the summer, are the true preservatives against this malady. The greatest injury they can do, is in dissolving the humors, and particularly the bile, of which

they are the true solvents, and occasion a diarrhœa. But even this diarrhœa is a protection against the dysentery. Whenever the dysentery has prevailed, I have eaten less animal food and more fruit, and have never had the slightest attack. I have seen eleven patients in one house; nine were obedient to the direction given, and ate fruit: they recovered. The grandmother, and a child she was most partial to, died. She prescribed for the child burnt brandy and oil, powerful aromatics, and forbade the use of fruit. She followed the same course herself, and met the like fate. A minister, attacked with dysentery, ate three pounds of red currants between seven o'clock in the morning and nine in the evening: next day he was entirely cured. — *Tissot.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Self-sustaining Bridge. — We were present, on Wednesday afternoon of last week, to witness the construction of a bridge, thrown across an arm of the Cobbossee stream, in Gardiner, and invented by Mr. Littlefield, an ingenious and respectable citizen of that place. It is upon a new plan, which Mr. L. has got patented, and promises a great saving in the material, labor, and cost of construction. The sides of the bridge consist of two ellipses, one supporting the other, and making it self-sustaining. It requires no abutments or piers, and but a very little timber — the principal part consisting of two elliptical timber trusses extending from one side of the stream to the other, and fastened to horizontal beams lying crosswise the bridge at the ends. From these beams, wires, or small iron rods, extend by an opposite ellipsis the whole length of the bridge, and receive its floor, on which the travel is had. The ends of the bridge are supported by common cedar posts. Built for small bridges, they might be transported from one place to another with facility. Mr. L. thinks a span of almost any length would be safe and sure, and that bridges made on this plan will answer a good purpose for railroads. The bridge we saw him complete is forty feet long by ten feet wide, is capable of supporting a great weight steadily, was made and finished off in two days, and cost for materials and labor but about forty dollars. We see not why it may not answer an excellent purpose, and prove a very valuable invention. — *Gospel Banner.*

Fire Proof Paint. — A paint that would be both a preservative to wood from the ordinary wear and corrosions of the weather, and at the same time a protection from fire, has long been a desideratum. Many experiments have been tried, and many failures made.

It has at length been accomplished by William Blake, Esq., whom many of our readers will recollect as having resided in this town several years ago, and who is well known as an estimable man in his social relations, as also being largely imbued with the Yankee spirit of industry and research. We last week had the pleasure of meeting with Freeland Holmes, Esq., of Bangor, who exhibited to us specimens of this paint, and gave us samples of the material before being combined with oil. Mr. Holmes is Mr. Blake's agent for Maine.

It makes a dense, compact covering on whatever it is placed, as hard as marble, and may be written upon as well as upon a slate; indeed, it is an artificial slate. By chemical analysis, it has been found to be made up of silica, alumina, and oxide of iron, as its principal ingredients. It is a mineral substance found by Mr. Blake in Akron, Ohio. The history of its discovery and the experiments tried by Mr. Blake before he finally succeeded in ascertaining its true use, are very curious, and may form a chapter for a future number of our paper.

We can only add at present that it has been found by actual experiment to have been instrumental in saving a house from burning. The roof of the house in question was painted with this paint. A house next on one side took fire, and burned down. The burning shingles and cinders rained down upon this roof, which escaped, while the roof of the house next beyond, not so painted, took fire several times. So it has been proved by a "fiery ordeal," and stood the test. — *Maine Farmer.*

To soften Putty, and remove Glass without breaking. — As it is often of importance to glaziers and others to remove glass from frames without breaking it, they will be glad to know, that a very strong solution of caustic potash, or caustic soda, applied round the panes for a few hours, by laying upon them an old rag dipped in the solution, will have the desired effect. — *American Farmer.*

HOW MUCH DO OUR CROPS OBTAIN FROM THE AIR?

One of the most interesting and important questions which employ the skill and science of the vegetable physiologists, as well as the practical farmer, is, How much, or what per cent. of the food of vegetables, is obtained from the atmosphere? That a large amount is obtained from this source has long been known or believed; but what proportion is not so well known, nor what conditions are necessary in order to enable the plant to take the most of this food, and assimilate it to its own system in the best way, is not yet fully ascertained. We have been very much interested in reading an address, delivered by Dr. Lee, of Buffalo, before the Monroe County Agricultural Society. He there asserts that plants — a field of wheat, for instance — obtain ninety-seven per cent. of their food, and consequently ninety-seven per cent. of the amount of the produce is derived from the atmosphere, and but three per cent. only obtained from the soil. How this fact is ascertained, or how it may be demonstrated, does not appear. There cannot be a doubt that every plant has some peculiar character of its own, which requires it to be placed in certain circumstances, in order to enable it to absorb what the air supplies for food, and to make it convert the greatest portion of it to the growth and maturing its peculiar fruits. There cannot be a doubt that oftentimes a plant may grow in an atmosphere full of the necessary elements for its increase and health, and yet some little requisite — the absence or scanty supply of another element — may prevent it from availing itself of this abundant supply of atmospheric food. Hence the importance of thoroughly understanding all the laws by which the germination, growth, and maturity of every species of vegetable which we cultivate are governed. But in order to ascertain these exactly, it requires more critical knowledge of chemistry and botany than the great bulk of farmers possess, and more time to be employed in research than many men, even of scientific experience, have to bestow upon it. For this reason, we suggest that agricultural societies should bestow some of their funds in the shape of premiums, or otherwise, for the purpose of instituting exact experiments upon this subject, and to elicit and make known to the public all the knowledge which can possibly be thus discovered. — *Maine Farmer.*

WHEAT RUST AND THE WEATHER.

Mr. Bateham: I notice much said in the Cultivator in regard to failure of the wheat crop by rust, &c., and many inquiries respecting varieties of wheat that are supposed to escape the malady. Now, it is a question, whether any variety of wheat will be found to escape the rust, or the effects of extreme heat, if either of these evils occur at the time the grain is in a green and milky state. If the grain or berry is so far advanced as to be in a stiff doughy state before the rust or extreme heat occurs, the crop will be but little injured; but if sown late, or from any cause the crop is backward, or if the rust or heat occur early in the season, so as to find the grain in the milky state, the result must be, shrivelled wheat.

I would advise farmers who have a good variety of wheat, that they have tested and found adapted to their lands, to stick to that variety, notwithstanding an occasional failure. Sow early, rather than late — manure, lime, and clover your land, and rest it occasionally with grass and summer fallow, and your wheat will seldom be injured with rust. But no precaution of the farmer can protect his wheat crop from the injurious effects of extreme hot weather, when it occurs for three or more days in succession, just as the grain is forming and in a milky state. I remember that in 1828 we had four days of extreme hot weather, the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of June; so hot that it killed the wheat stalks just below the head, before the grain was out of the milk, thereby stopping the flow of the sap, which was needed to fill out the grain; and a vast amount of shrivelled wheat was the consequence throughout the country. No rust was found on the wheat that season; the weather was too dry and hot to produce rust. I was engaged in milling business that season, and purchased a large amount of wheat weighing from fifty-six to sixty pounds to the bushel. The lightest in weight offered me weighed only forty-six pounds; and light as it was, the farmers used it for seed, and it produced a good crop the following season.

The heaviest and best wheat I saw that season weighed sixty-three pounds to the bushel; and on inquiring of the grower, he informed me, that owing to wet weather in the fall, he was prevented from sowing until January, and his crop was so backward as not to be fully headed out when that extreme hot weather occurred in June.

The wheat crop suffered great injury in this (Jefferson) county the past season; first by the severe winter, next by extreme heat in June, and lastly by the rust.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

ROBERT SHERRARD.

Sugar Hill Farm, near Steubenville, O., 1849. — *Ohio Cultivator.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — There is a great difference in wheat as it regards rust, some kinds being hardy and less susceptible to rust than others; and there is a great advantage in selecting hardy kinds; but even these will occasionally be liable to rust. When soil, manure, and the weather all combine to produce rust, the most hardy varieties are susceptible of injury. High manuring, especially of animal manure not well decomposed, has a tendency to produce rust. Some lands abound in undecomposed vegetable matter, which may undergo fermentation as the berry is filling, and promote rust. But this is seldom the case in this section. On the rich prairies, and fertile bottoms of the west, it is more common.

OPEN KNEE-JOINT OF A HORSE

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH COLLODION.

I send you a case of open knee-joint treated successfully by the application of collodion. If you think it worthy of insertion in your valuable periodical, it is entirely at your disposal.

The wound in the above case was in itself of a very formidable character. The opening into the joint was between the two rows of carpal bones, and the injury done to the capsular ligament was extensive. And, what added more than any thing to the severity of the case, was the treatment the horse experienced immediately after the accident. The person who drove him at the time of the accident, not understanding the nature of the injury, sent him home, a distance of thirty miles, over uneven and stony ground. He was two days on the road. When he arrived at home, it was lamentable to behold the poor animal. From the synovial membrane being so long exposed, great inflammation had taken place in the joint, and the symptomatic fever dependent on this also was very alarming. However, the horse being a great favorite, my father was determined to give him a chance. Accordingly, he was put in slings, and the usual treatment employed, such as is generally thought adapted to those cases, but without any good effect. At length, I being a student in the medical profession, and knowing the adhesive properties of collodion, from having seen it applied upon the human body, the idea struck me, that it might prove of service in this case, in shielding the wound from the air, and preventing the discharge of synovia.

Accordingly, I advised my father to let me try it. We began by applying it several times in the course of the day for two days, at the end of which we had the great satisfaction of seeing the discharge of the synovial fluid completely arrested. The external wound was then treated in the usual manner; and at this time the cicatrix left is not larger than a shilling; and, what is more satisfactory, there is not any anchylosis of the joint. He has been blistered over the knee, and is at present in a small field, and is fast regaining his former strength. — *Journal of Veterinary Science.*

WEEVIL IN GRAIN.

The weevil is frequently very destructive to wheat in the granary. The following remedy, which we copy from the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper, is very simple, of easy application, free from any injury to the grain, and we have no doubt that it is effectual, as salt is very destructive to insects. The term *weevil* is often, but improperly, applied to the little insect that destroys wheat in the field, by eating the berry in its tender state, which should be called the *grain worm.*

"Seeing an article in last week's 'Newspaper,' over the signature of W. C. S., Lancaster, Pa., on the destruction of the weevil, where he says they are so destroying the wheat there, as scarcely to leave a sound sheaf in the barns, and wishes to know how to destroy them, I will give him my experience on the subject. I have had them thousands strong in the barn for several years past, but have not had my wheat injured by them for two years, and have nearly got rid of them, and think I might have been entirely so, if I had not been anxious to prove the experiment. Last harvest, one year, on putting my wheat into the barn, I thought it a little damp, and concluded to salt it — a thing I had never done before, but thought it could not hurt it. I did so with all

I put in the mow; but what shattered off it in pitching on to the mow, was threshed and pushed upon the floor, and covered with the straw. It lay there for some two months, when, on preparing to thresh off my crop, I overhauled it, and found it literally alive with weevils. We put it through the fan, and gathered them out the screen box, and swept them off the floor by the quart, and destroyed them. Now for the mow: To the best of my knowledge, there was not one handful destroyed by them; indeed, I do not know that it was touched. We threshed it, cleansed it through the fan, and garnered it, I think, without seeing a single weevil, or weevil-eaten grain. For further proof of the matter, this year I did nearly the same thing, only putting the shattered wheat in a cask, and letting it stand on the floor. Last week, on examining it, I found a few weevils in it; but it was very little injured. I set it away, and proceeded to thresh a part of the other, about one hundred dozens, amongst which I have to find the first weevil; and further, the garner in which there had been a number of them is now entirely clear, after having the wheat thus salted in it. The quantity of salt used was about a peck to one hundred dozen, sprinkled over each cart-load of about ten to twelve dozens. C. L.

Upper Chichester, Delaware Co., Pa., 1849.

MILK-HOUSES.

Friend Solon Robinson, Crown Point, Pa., well known as an agricultural tourist, and a gentleman of extensive observation, from whom we have occasionally had friendly calls this season, gives the following plan for a milk-house, which we think far preferable to sinking them deep in the earth, which prevents the admission of pure air, and a free circulation: —

Seeing your article in No. 19, reminds me to tell you how I built my milk-house.

It is of brick, ten feet by eighteen, two stories high, built upon the same level as the dwelling, and near by. The two sides and one end are banked up with earth, and sodded from the top of the first story back on a gradual slope.

A small entry is made at one end, so as to give double doors, and a double glass window is arranged at the other end, so as to open and give ventilation.

A ventilator, about one foot square, should go from the centre of the ceiling out through the roof.

The joists are plastered, and support a false floor, composed of boards, and four inches of clay between that and the floor of the room above, which room is used for a smoke-house, the smoke being conducted from the outside.

The floor of the milk-room is of brick — stone would be better. This room is cool in summer, and warm enough for a cellar in latitude 41½° in winter.

This is a very cheap and very good plan to make a milk-house in any country.

SHOEING HORSES.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, some time since, Professor Sewal remarked that he frequently found old horses shod with a layer of leather, forming an artificial sole, between the hoof and the shoe, recovering from severe affections of the hoof, — such, for instance, as contraction, brittleness, and cracks, or even diseases of the foot itself, as thrushes, corns, cankers, etc., — and permanently regain their original elasticity and firmness. — *Selected.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

From Colonel Charles Hannaford, Cape Elizabeth, Me., a box of apples, called the *Pearmain*. It is of medial size; roundish-flat, very full in the eye and cavity; stem rather short, and very slender; rich yellow ground, striped and blended with brilliant red, which nearly covers the surface, full in the sun; flesh white, very tender, crisp, juicy, mild, pleasant, and of a fine pearmain flavor, resembling the Magnolia in flavor. Colonel H. remarks that these apples are from the native tree on his place, which is about eighty years old; that formerly the fruit was larger and finer; and that this variety is the more valuable for bearing in odd years, when fruit is scarce, according to our theory, which he regards as correct. As this variety is a good grower and bearer, the fruit of good size on vigorous trees, very fair and handsome, of fine quality for eating or cooking, it is worthy of experiment, as it promises to be an excellent kind. Ripe during September; in this climate, about from the middle of August to the middle of September.

Of John Washburn, Plymouth, a seedling quince, which he raised from the Apple quince. It is very large, remarkably fair and smooth, similar in texture and appearance to the Apple quince, but rather firmer flesh; and it ripens about a fortnight later, but earlier than the Pear *quince*. It is a very promising variety; and as it is nameless, we would propose to call it the *Washburn Apple* quince. Jalousie Fontenay de Vendee pears, very fair, and good quality, a new and promising foreign variety. Sieulle pears, large and fair, but too hard for present use. Charter Oak grape. We heard that this grape was cultivated about Hartford, Ct., and that it was a valuable kind. We requested Egbert Cowles, of Farmington, Ct., president of Hartford County Horticultural Society, to give us information on it, supposing that it was within his *jurisdiction*. He writes that Dr. Grant, a leading horticulturist of Hartford, states that it was a wild vine, transplanted into the Wyley estate, (Charter Oak place,) where it bore large fruit of inferior quality, which he regards as not worth cultivating. The quality of the fruit from Mr. W. confirms the opinion of Dr. G. It is one of the poorest of wild grapes, and about the same as the famous Mammoth grape, cultivated about Lowell. We have also had the same from Springfield. In our last, under the head of acknowledgments, for *Monmouth* read *Mammoth*.

Of John Cummings, Woburn, several seedling peaches; one a large white peach with a red blush, and white flush, freestone, of excellent quality, ripens October 1. Two varieties of clingstone, excellent for preserving; one of medial size, the last of September; the other quite large, and ripening the first of October.

Of Amos Tilton, East Kingston, N. H., a large, beautiful seedling peach, clingstone, fine for preserves. This peach is about half nectarine, which is a variety of the peach, as the nectarine is raised from peach stones, and the reverse. Fine pears of the

Fulton, and two varieties not yet ripe, which are probably new native kinds. One specimen, of tolerably good size, grew on wood of this season's growth. We have noticed other similar cases this year. Also from his neighbor, Nathaniel Batchelder, native grapes, very large and beautiful, and of a fine quality for the wild species.

From Andrew Lackey, Jr., Marblehead, very large and fine St. Ghislain pears. When at Mr. L.'s, in August, we noticed this tree, on the quince, trained against the house, growing with great vigor, and well loaded with the finest looking fruit that we ever saw of this variety. On the pear, this variety is not profitable for the market for want of size. But for the amateur it is one of the finest of pears. Also very fine specimens of Belle Lucrative pears, and Coe's Golden Drop plums, first rate fruits; but they both generally need rather a warm location and light soil for this climate.

Chelmsford Mammoth peach. We noticed this in our last number. We have since seen Mr. Holden, and we find that he calls his peach the *Chelmsford Mammoth*, not the *Early Chelmsford*, as we supposed. Therefore the names of this and the Early Chelmsford described in the American Fruit Book, are distinct, and so is the fruit. We have a letter from Joseph Warren, Jr., Chelmsford, confirming what Mr. Holden has said as to these fruits, and recommending no alteration of names, as they are distinct. We would say to him that his letter came too late for peach buds. The apple scions will be furnished in due time.

From Isaac Steere, Burrilville, R. I., Blackstone grapes. Tolerably good for wild grapes, but no better than many other varieties. Whether these are the same as those usually cultivated under this name, or not, we cannot say; but we have seen at exhibitions the same fruit, in appearance, with this mark on them. Also two other varieties. The purple are about as good as the Blackstone, but different.

Of Norris Collins, Watertown, Watertown pear. This is described in the American Fruit Book. A further acquaintance gives us a still higher opinion of this fruit. It is luscious and excellent, ranking as first rate when grown well exposed to the sun. Its being a native, and very hardy, vigorous, and productive, are strong recommendations in its favor. As the dealer who purchased this fruit remarked that it would not sell well under its present indefinite name, and some others desired it changed, we suggest that it be called the *Collins* pear. It originated in the garden of Joseph Cole, Watertown, now owned by Mr. Collins.

From Ezekiel Johnson, Woburn, native grapes, tolerably good, grown upon a vine that has borne well for twenty-five years without cultivation, still standing in its native spot. It ripens about the first of September.

From S. Scudder, Dorchester, apples and pears for names. The apples are the Spice apple, called in some places *Hapgood's Spice*. It is remarkably handsome, and of first-rate quality for cooking, but too acid for the dessert. The pear belongs to the Bonchretian family, and is, we believe, what is called the *Fall Bonchretien*. The size is good, and the fruit very fair and handsome, but dry and inferior in quality. Also peaches, which are nectarines of fine quality; and as they are clingstones, they appear well adapted for preserving.

From Elisha Bunce, Westford, Isabella grapes, well ripened and fine the last week in September, which is very early for this variety, in this cool, late season.

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

The American Flora, by Dr. Strong, is among the most interesting and useful publications. The numerous painted illustrations are very beautiful, and remarkably true to nature. Green & Spencer, New York.

The Illustrated Natural History, by the same editor and publishers as the above, is embellished by engravings of life-like appearance, and the descriptions of animals and their habits furnish, to both young and old, the most pleasing and useful instruction.

Chase's Pocket Almanac, and Map of Boston, is a very convenient little *pocket book*.

FRIENDSHIP.

Like a star in the sky
When all others have set,
As the sun in his course
While the day lingers yet,
And his light is not hid
In his pathway on high,
But shines bright and pure
From his throne in the sky, —

Thus firm in attachment,
When all others desert,
Thus pure in the light
Which it sheds on the heart,
Is the beacon of friendship,
Which brightens the way
Of life's checkered path
With a heavenly ray.

Rural Repository.

Long Since. — A lady, who had been very submissive before marriage, was observed by a friend to use her tongue pretty freely after. "There was a time I almost imagined she had none." "Yes," said the husband, with a sigh, "but *it is very long since.*"

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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